

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ECON, BL
SUBJECT: UPCOMING DECISION ON VEHICLE ASSEMBLY: ATTEMPTED
BRIBERY

REF: LA PAZ 4356

1. AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOB MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE,
AND TOURISM, CARLOS RODRIGO LEA PLAZA, THE AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED
BY AN EMBOFF, VISITED HIM ON JUNE 7 TO DISCUSS THE CAMPAIGN
CONTRIBUTION (SEE REFTEL). GENERAL VILLALPANDO AND GENERAL
PEREDA HAD CONTACTED HIM PREVIOUSLY.

2. AFTER REVIEWING THE PROCEDURES FOR MAKING THE ANDEAN PACT
VEHICLE ASSIGNMENT DECISION AND EMPHASIZING THE IMPARTIALITY
OF THE DECISION PROCESS, THE MINISTER CALLED UNDER SECRETARY OF
INDUSTRY ROLANDO PEREYRA TO HIS OFFICE.

3. MR. PEREYRA, WITH WHOM THE MINISTER HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION, APPEARED VERY NERVOUS UPON ENTERING THE
MINISTER'S OFFICE. AFTER LISTENING TO THE MINISTER'S BRIEF
EXPLANATION OF THE REASON FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT, MR.
PEREYRA RESPONDED BY TELLING OF THH MANY ANONIMOUS LETTERS,
CRITICIZING ONE OR ANOTHER OF THE FOUR FINALIST COMPANIES, WHICH
THE GOB NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE HAD RECEIVED. HE ASKED THAT HIS
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BRIEFCASE CONTAINING THESE LETTERS BE BROUGH FROM HIS OFFICE;
HE SHOWED SOME OF THESE LETTERS TO THE AMBASSADOR AND THE
MINISTER.

4. CLARIFYING THE PURPOSE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT, THE
MINISTER SAID THAT AN AMERICAN FIRM HAD BEEN ASKED TO MAKE A
LARGE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION AND THAT HE, MR. PEREYRA,

HAD BEEN NAMED AS THE PERSON WHO HAD REQUESTED THE CONTRIBUTION. MR. PEREYRA CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO HAVE ASKED THIS OF MR. CONSTANTINE OR MR. LESHINSKY, CHRYSLER REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WHO HAD RETURNED TO THE US OVER TWO WEEKS AGO.

5. MR. PEREYRA WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE MET WITH HAROLD ARAMBURO, THE BOLIVIAN CHRYSLER REPRESENTATIVE, AFTER THE SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS HAD ENDED. ACCORDING TO MR. PEREYRA, THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS THE RUMOR THAT THE FOUR FINALISTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NEED TO MAKE A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION TO REMAIN UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. MR. PEREYRA SAID THAT HE NEVER ASKED MR. ARAMBURO FOR A POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION. HE SAID THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN FOOLISH SINCE MR. ARAMBURO WAS ONLY THE BOLIVIAN REPRESENTATIVE AND HAD NO AUTHORITY TO MAKE SUCH DECISION.

6. MR. PEREYRA THEN ASKED HOW HE, IF HE WERE TO MAKE SUCH A DEMAND, AND IF THE MONEY WERE PAID, WOULD BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE 14 MEMBER NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE. AT THE MOST, HE POINTED OUT, HE COULD CONTROL ONLY THE VOTES OF THE THREE OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM HIS MINISTRY.

7. THE MINISTER CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY STATING THAT HE WOULD INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND WOULD SPEAK WITH MR. ARAMBURO, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ONLY MEMBER OF CHRYSLER'S NEGOTIATING TEAM PRESENTLY IN BOLIVIA.
BOEKER

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